UNITED
NATIONS

E

Economic and Social Council

Distr.
LIMITED

E/CONF.85/L.83
24 July 1992

ENGLISH ONLY

SIXTH UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE
ON THE STANDARDIZATION OF
GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES
New York, 25 August-3 September 1992
Item 4 of the provisional agenda*

REPORTS BY DIVISIONS AND GOVERNMENTS ON THE SITUATION IN THEIR REGIONS AND COUNTRIES AND ON THE PROGRESS MADE IN THE STANDARDIZATION OF GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES SINCE THE FIFTH CONFERENCE

Report of Norway

Paper submitted by Norway**

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* E/CONF.85/1/Rev.1.

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INTRODUCTION

The standardization and use of geographical names in Norway has largely followed the principles laid down by the United Nations. This applies to collection, computer registration, publication of gazetteers, and national and internationl co-operation. The Place-Name Law, which came into effect on 1 July 1991, has been extremely useful in the standardization and use of correct forms of names in official contexts (presented in a separate working paper) .

FIELD COLLECTION OF NAMES (Agenda item 5a))

The work of collecting place-names in oral use has continued in many local districts in Norway. In four of the nineteen counties the collection of place-names is organized centrally for the whole county area. The field collection is largely done by unskilled workers. Many of them are retired people who have been trained for the purpose. The method of collection is standardized for the whole of the country. The aim is to establish a "Norwegian Place-Name Data Base", in which all Norwegian place-names in oral use will be registered first, and to which place-names from written sources will be added later. (Details of the method are to be found in a special report presented to the Conference). The Norwegian Place Name Database will be independent of the map name data base which the Norwegian Mapping Authority is in the process of establishing.

In two cases of planned encroachment upon the cultural landscape the Norwegian State authorities have granted additonal funding for the collection of place-names:

1) In connection with the planned gaspipe from Western Norway through the south of the country and into Sweden a detailed registration of the place-names in two of the local districts along the route was carried out in 1990.

2) In connection with the projected main airport at Gardermoen outside Oslo a systematic collection was undertaken of all the known place-names in the two neighbouring local districts of Nannestad and Ullensaker. This was for use in the exposition of potential conflicts with regard to the cultural landscape. The material has been registered on computer (altogether some 5000 names) and will be made available for research into the cultural history of the area and for practical purposes, for example in the naming of objects in the airport area.

TOPONYMIC GUIDELINES (Agenda item 5c))

A revised version of "Toponymic guidelines for map and other editors - Norway" is in the planning stages.

TOPONYMIC DATAFILES (Agenda item 6a)-6d))

The Norwegian place-name archives as well as the producers of maps require name material to be machine readable. The cartographers currently use different hardware and software than the archives, but the long term plan is to make all computerized name material compatible. To-day the computer system NORD 500 is in use for the name data base, but the Norwegian Mapping Authority is now in the process of transmitting the register to a server unit in connection with the Norwegian Geographical Information System (NGIS) in order to integrate it with a network based system which is to be accessible to any one at running costs.

The Mapping Authority has completed the database of names for the main series of Maps N50 (earlier M711) on the scale of 1:50,000, a total of some 400,000 entries (see below). The planned computerization of names on sea charts and maps on larger scales (mainly 1:5000) will comprise about another million names. The place name archives have so far computerized approximately half a million names.

DOCUMENTATION PROJECT

At the University of Oslo there is in progress a "Documentation Project" to transfer earlier collected name material from archive cards to data files. The Norwegian State has provided extra funding to cover the cost of this project. The preparation and coding of the

material is carried out by research assistants and other qualified personnel, while the actual computerization is done by unskilled secretarial assistants around the country using a simple, specially constructed programme. The secretarial assistants are mostly unemployed people who are engaged through a state job creation scheme. The principles for computerization in the Documentation Project are the same as for the computerization of name material generally. The question whether all the Norwegian universities and colleges of higher education should take part in this project is now being considered.

NATIONAL GAZETTEERS AND OTHER PUBLICATIONS (Agenda item 6e)-6f))

The Norwegian Mapping Authority issued during 1990-91 Index to Names on 1:50 000 Scale Maps of Norway. Series M711 (Topographic Main Series). Vol. I. South of 61°. Vol II. Between 60°30'N and 65°30'N. Vol III. North of 64°30'. (The name of the main map series has now been changed to "Series N50"). The index of names is in alphabetical order within each of the three regions covered and includes information on the designation, the map sheet, grid reference, latitude and longitude. Each volume also contains a Norwegian-English glossary of the most common generics of the names. Norsk stadnamnleksikon (the Norwegian Place-name Dictionary, 3rd edition Oslo 1991) gives a brief explanation of some 6000 frequently used place-names in Norway.

The Hydrographic Survey of Norway issued during the period 1986-90 a revised version of Den Norske Los (The Norwegian Pilot) in seven volumes. This work contains a

detailed description of buoys and lighthouses along the coasts of Norway and Svalbard, with a register of names. A survey of state departments and institutions is published annually in Norges statskalender (The Norwegian State Calender), whereas a survey of local council institutions is published annually in Kommunenökkelen (The Local Council Key). A more comprehensive list of administrative naming is given in Norsk engelsk administrativ ordbok (Norwegian-English Administrative Glossary), revised version 1988.

TERMINOLOGY IN THE STANDARDIZATION OF GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES

(Agenda item 7)

In Norsk geologisk tidsskrift. A Norwegian Journal of Geology, vol 66, Supplement 1, 1986, the Norwegian Committee on Stratigraphy gives a summary of the "Codes and Recommendations for the naming of geological units in Norway". The codes are mainly based on the principles in the International Stratigraphic Guide (ISSC 1976), published by the International Subcommission on Stratigraphic Classification, but also on the North American Stratigraphic Code, laid down by the North American Commission on Stratigraphic Nomenclature (NACSN 1983). The main principles of the Norwegian codes are:

> "The name of a lithostratigraphic unit should be formed from the name of an appropriate local geographic feature, combined with the appropriate term for its rank (group, formation, member, bed), or with the name of the dominant rock type of which the unit is composed, or with both".

A handbook on place-names in public and private use will be issued in late 1992. This book has been written with reference to the new Place-name Act and it includes a summary of the naming of roads, construction projects and buildings, rules for the spelling and for the use of the names on maps and in other contexts, and advice on how best to conduct the naming of places in public and private spheres. The book will be distributed to every local council in the country.

EXONYMS (Agenda item 9a)-9c))

In 1991 the Norwegian Language Council published Geografilista (List of Foreign Geographical Names), which is an alphabetical list of approximately 5000 foreign geographical names with their recommended spellings in Norwegian and definition of each locality named. The list includes the nationality adjectives and the nouns used of the inhabitants of each country. The main principle is to use the spelling used in the country concerned, transcribed into the Latin alphabet in the case of languages using other alphabets. Names which have been given new spellings appear with the old spelling given in brackets, for example Dhaka (Dacca). Many Arabic names have a traditional form in Norwegian, for example Damaskus, while some have been established on the basis of French practice for rendering Arabic script, for example Nouakchott, others are rendered according to English practice, for example Shatt al-Arab. Diacritical marks have been included to a greater extent than previously. The introduction of the list gives a brief guide to the pronunciation of each of the major languages.

Even though the number of exonyms has been reduced in relation to previous practice, there is still a considerable number of exonyms in the list, particularly in cases where the generic is a common noun, for example Bodensjøen for Bodensee. In some cases the endonym is given in addition to the exonym, for example Hudsonbukta - Hudson Bay and Gardasjøen - Lago di Garda. Exonyms with Norwegian generics are given in Bokmål and Nynorsk according to the spelling norms of the two official forms of Norwegian, for example Leewardøyene - Leewardøyane (also Leeward Islands). The list does not, however, contain any Sami (Lappish) forms of exonyms. (The Sami Place-name Advisory Service in Norway is currently working on this question.)

Norden Division has set up an ad hoc committee to consider the reduction of the use of exonyms, but the Norwegian Language Council does not wish to see any further reduction of exonyms than it has recommended in Geografilista. Even so it is unlikely that the existing list can be regarded as final and definitive.

FEATURES BEYOND A SINGLE SOVEREIGNTY (Agenda item 10a)-10d))

TREATMENT OF NAMES IN POLAR AREAS

The Ministry of Cultural Affairs has passed a resolution stating that the Place-name Act of 18. May 1990 does not apply to Svalbard, Jan Mayen and the Norwegian dependencies Bouvetøya, Peter I Øy and Dronning Maud Land. The Norwegian Polar Research Institute

is in charge of the authorization of the place-names in these territories according to its own internal regulations.

In Svalbard and Jan Mayen older place-names have been published in The Place-Names of Svalbard. Skrifter om Svalbard og Ishavet. Nr. 80 (Norsk Polarinstitutt, Oslo 1942, reissued 1991), Supplement I to The Place-Names of Svalbard. Skrifter om Svalbard og Ishavet. Nr. 112 (Norsk Polarinstitutt 1958) og The Place-Names of Jan Mayen. Skrifter om Svalbard og Ishavet. Nr. 120 (Norsk Polarinstitutt, Oslo 1960). Some of the names in these publications have been corrected and new names have been added.

Expeditions from a number of countries have been working in Dronning Maud Land and have thus taken part in the process of giving names in this territory. The problem of the use of foreign names and transfer into Norwegian has three possible solutions: a) complete translation of the foreign name, b) translation of the generic, c) preservation of the foreign name as it stands (however always written in the Latin alphabet). In the debate on what form the Japanese name Azuki zima 'small red bean island' should take on the Norwegian map the following alternatives were discussed: Bauna 'the bean', Baunøya 'the bean island', Azukiøya, Azuki zima. In this instance the first alternative was chosen. Džalil'knausen, Luna 9-haugen, Mečnikovfjellet, Granittfjellet are examples of recently approved names of Russian origin in Dronning Maud Land. This year the Norwegian Polar Research Institute has elaborated Preliminary Lists of Norwegian Place-names of Bouvetøya, Dronning Maud Land, Peter I Øy.

The latest regulations for the Norwegian dependencies in the Antarctic (1991) give the following guidelines for the treatment of names in languages other than Norwegian:

- all maps and publications may be used as source material
- the foreign word may be used in the first component while a Norwegian form should be used in the main element (generic)
- if the first element consists of both the forname and the surname of a person only one of these should be used.
- extremely long names should be shortened
- the name of an entity which was first published is the name which should be used
- names which have already been approved should be kept
- in cases where foreign and Norwegian names have been used parallel with each other the Norwegian names should be used, but these can be supplemented by foreign names

The Science Committee of Antarctic Research (SCAR) has raised the question of what regulations should apply to the treatment of names in the Antarctic continent and any regulations which may be approved by this body ought to affect the Norwegian naming regulations in this area.

NAMES IN COASTAL AREAS

The names of submarine features and areas in the Norwegian economic zone are set by the Hydrographic Survey of Norway or by other public authorities which use the area. Some names are used by neighbouring countries in different forms than the official Norwegian spelling, for instance the well-established name Norskerenna is used as the

Norwegian Trench by Great Brittain. The names of fishing banks in the North Sea are agreed upon by the implicated countries and the World Meteorological Organization. In recent years the traditional names of Doggerbank, Fiskebank, and Fladengrunn have been shortened to Dogger, Fisker, and Fladen.

NAMES OF OIL FILEDS ON THE CONTINENTAL SHELF

Since the 1960s a great many oil fields on the Norwegian continental shelf have been named. These names have to be approved by the Norwegian Petroleum Directorate. The Ministry of Petroleum and Energy approved new regulations for the naming of oil fields on 2 March 1984. These state that names should be selected from a list approved by the Norwegian Language Council. The names chosen should not be easily confused with the names of any other oil fields or with other place-names generally. The name should be reasonably easy to pronounce in several languages. The main sources of inspiration for the names of oil fields have been Nordic mythology, Norwegian fairy tales and the names of Norwegian birds and fish.

WRITING SYSTEMS AND GUIDES TO PRONUNCIATION (Agenda item 11)

ROMANIZATION

The romanization of names from non-Roman alphabets is done according to international practice. Russian names are transcribed into Norwegian in accordance with the rules laid down by the Nordic countries in 1970. For scientific purposes an international system of

transliteration is preferred. Greek names are now normally written according to modern Greek pronunciation, for example Iraklion, Rodos, Egina, whereas the former practice was to spell the names according to older Greek, for example Herakleion, Rhodos, Aigina. Rhodos is still in common use amongst tour operators.

The pinyin system is now normally used for the transliteration of Chinese names, for example Henan, Dongting, as opposed to Honan, Tungting used earlier (Wales-Giles system). In the case of certain well-established names the previous spelling has been kept in addition to the new form, for example Peking - Beijing. The above mentioned Geografilista gives an account of certain other details of the transliteration of geographical names from different languages to Norwegian.

GUIDELINES FOR THE PRONUNCIATION OF PLACE-NAMES

Difficulties with pronunciation frequently occur when the standardized spelling of the name bears little resemblance to the local pronunciation. The pronunciation of some of the most frequently used place-names is to be found in Norwegian dictionaries. In an attempt to make the correct pronunciation more accessible the Place-name Advisory Service of Eastern Norway has co-operated with the Department of Name Research in the production of a phonetically based place-name register (in addition to the standardized forms of the names) for the map of Hægebostad in the county of Vest-Agder on the scale of 1:50,000. The register is to be printed on the reverse side of the map. The map itself only has the standarized forms.

TRAINING IN THE ADMINISTRATION OF NAMES (Agenda item 12)

Many courses are run every year in Norway to train people in the scientific methods for the collecting of place-names. This training also includes instruction in how the collected material can be best used in the fields of cultural research, naming, and the production of large scale maps.

In connection with the Place-name Law a number of conferences have been held by the Ministry of Cultural Affairs and the Norwegian Mapping Authority for personnel employed in the various map departments. The Ministry has also distributed a brochure on the administration of the Place-name Law.

To some extent there has been some exchange of toponymic information between the Scandinavian countries. The Department of Name Research has been asked to send a survey of older school atlases to Austria. The institute has also answered a French enquiry about the spelling of foreign names in Norway.

In order to spread information on place-names and place-name regulations a number of articles ranging from the scientific to the popular have been written. Several radio programmes on the subject have been broadcast.

MEETINGS AND CONFERENCES (Agenda item 13)

In 1988 a national conference was held in Oslo, dealing with the standardization of place-names in written and oral contexts. The papers which were presented have been published in the proceedings of the conference (Den 5. nasjonale konferansen i namnegransking.

Blindern 18. november 1988. Innleiingar og diskusjon. Universitetet i Oslo. ISSN 0801 7956).

In the fall of 1991 the Ministry of Cultural Affairs organized a conference to discuss the Place-name Law with the recently established Place-name Advisory Services. A similar conference will be held later this year.

The Norwegian Mapping Authority has organized several meetings to inform the County Mapping Offices about the regulations of the Place-name Law. In addition there have been a number of meetings on the same issue in the local councils throughout the country.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL BENEFITS OF PLACE-NAME STANDARDIZATION (Agenda item 14)

The Nordic countries are currently working to establish a joint place-name data base for maps on the scale of 1:2 million. By offering the data base for national and international map producers it will be possible to reduce map production costs. At the same time it will be easier for users to be sure of the correct spelling of the names. Existing maps often contain a number of misspellings.

Adresses

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Statens kartverk/Norwegian Mapping Authority, N-3500 Hønefoss. Tel. (067)18100. Telefax (067)18101

Divisjon for Noregs sjøkartverk/Hydrographic Survey of Norway, Lervigsveien 36, N-4000 Stavanger. Tel. (04)563411. Telefax (04)562303

Norsk polarinstiutt/Norwegian Polar Research Institute, Rolfstangveien 12, N-1330 Fornebu. Tel. (02)123650. Telefax (02)123854

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